

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1947.



INCORPORATING THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. G. W. TATE)

ASHINGTON :
J. WILKINSON,
HIGH MARKET
1948.

URBAN DISTRICT OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

For the Year 1947.



INCORPORATING THE

Report of the Sanitary Inspector

(Mr. G. W. TATE)

ASHINGTON :
J. WILKINSON,
HIGH MARKET
1948.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2016 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b28811938>

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1947.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Ashington.

MR. CHAIRMAN AND COUNCILLORS,

I beg to present to you the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health concerning the health and sanitary circumstances of the Urban District in 1947.

The vital statistics are fairly satisfactory. The birth rate again shows a fractional increase and is the highest recorded for more than 12 years. The death rate shows an increase from 10.7 to 11.68 per 1,000 of the population but is still slightly lower than the average for towns of a comparable size throughout the country. The Maternal Mortality is nil, and the Infantile Mortality rate shows a fall from 48.9 to 46.8 per 1,000 live births, which is the second lowest ever recorded in the district although substantially higher than the average rate for towns of similar size throughout the country.

With reference to infectious disease, the most pleasing feature is the sharp fall in the incidence of Diphtheria, which has caused so much work and anxiety in the past few years, and the fact that no deaths resulted from this disease.

The immunisation state of the child population is satisfactory although some improvement in the figure for pre-school children is very desirable. Little opposition to immunisation is now encountered and the vast majority of parents gladly take advantage of the facilities offered.

The shortage of housing still remains a serious problem but great efforts are being made to improve the position and the Council's policy of relieving the most needy cases first is one which offers the best hope of obtaining the maximum benefit to the community from the houses available.

In conclusion, I should like, once again, to express my appreciation of the consideration extended to me by members of the Council and of the assistance I have received from the Sanitary and other departments of the Council.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant

C. B. MCGREGOR, M.B., D.P.H.,

Medical Officer of Health,

Urban District of Ashington.

July, 1948.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF ASHINGTON.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH FOR 1947.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health	...	...	C. B. McGregor, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Sanitary Housing Meat	} Inspector	...	G. W. Tate, F.S.I.A., M.R., San. I.
		...	
Sanitary Meat	} Inspector (additional)	...	H. S. Wilson, M.S.I.A., M.R., San. I.
		...	
Offices of the M.O.H.	...	...	146, Station Road, Ashington. Telephone: Ashington 2287.
Offices of the Sanitary Inspector	...	...	Council Chambers, Ashington. Telephone: Ashington 3210.
Hospital for Infectious Diseases (leased to the S.E.N.J.H.B.)	...	...	North Seaton Station, Ashington. Telephone: Ashington 2220.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area in Acres—6,057.

Registrar General's estimate of Resident population mid 1947—28,590.

Rateable Value—£118,362.

One Penny Rate produces £466.8139.

No. of inhabited houses (end of 1947) 7,684.

Vital Statistics.

BIRTHS:

LIVE BIRTHS.			Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	619	311	308
Illegitimate	...	...	27	16	11
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			646	327	319

Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated population—21.65

STILL BIRTHS.			Total	Male	Female
Legitimate	...	...	20	11	9
Illegitimate	...	...	1	0	1
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			21	11	10

Rate per 1,000 total (live and still births)—31.3

DEATHS:				Total	Male	Female
				334	180	154

Death Rate per 1,000 of the population—11.68

Deaths from Puerperal causes (headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar General's short list.)

	Deaths.	Rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births
No. 29, Puerperal Sepsis	0	0
No. 30, Other maternal causes	0	0

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	46.8
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	47
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	37
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	66
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1

The Registrar General supplies the following:—

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1947.

CAUSES.			Male	Female
1	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers ...	...	0	0
2	Cerebro Spinal Fevers ...	...	1	0
3	Scarlet Fever ...	...	0	0
4	Whooping Cough ...	...	0	0
5	Diphtheria ...	...	0	0
6	Tuberculosis of resp. sys. ...	...	8	7
7	Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	...	2	0
8	Syphilitic Diseases ...	...	0	0
9	Influenza ...	...	2	0
10	Measles ...	...	0	0
11	Ac. Polio-myel. and Polio-enceph. ...	...	0	0
12	Ac. inf. enceph. ...	...	0	1
13	Cancer of buc. cav. & oesoph (M) uterus (F) ...	...	1	5
14	Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	...	10	12
15	Cancer of breast ...	...	0	4
16	Cancer of all other sites ...	...	18	16
17	Diabetes ...	...	3	4
18	Intracranial vascular lesions ...	...	7	14
19	Heart diseases ...	...	56	46
20	Other dis. of the circ. system ...	...	6	4
21	Bronchitis ...	...	14	10
22	Pneumonia ...	...	10	3
23	Other resp. dis. ...	...	1	2
24	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	...	1	3
25	Diarrhoea under 2 years ...	...	1	0
26	Appendicitis ...	...	1	0
27	Other digve. dis. ...	...	5	1
28	Nephritis ...	...	2	2
29	Puer. & post abort. sepsis ...	...	0	0
30	Other maternal causes ...	...	0	0
31	Premature births ...	...	3	6
32	Con. mal. birth inj. infant dis. ...	...	3	3
33	Suicide ...	...	2	0
34	Road traffic accident ...	...	1	0
35	Other violent causes ...	...	9	2
36	All other causes ...	...	13	9
			180	154

Deaths of Infants under 1 year:

		Male.	Female.
Legitimate	... ..	17	11
Illegitimate	... ..	1	0
		—	—
		18	11
		—	—

INFANTILE MORTALITY DURING 1947.

The total number of deaths of children under 1 year was 29 as compared with 30 in 1946. This gives an infantile mortality rate of 46.8 per 1000 live births, which is lower than that for the previous year.

The Registrar General's Table S.D. 55 gives the infantile Mortality rate as follows:—

For England and Wales 41 deaths per 1,000 live births.

For 126 Great Towns 47 „ „ „

For 148 Smaller Towns (pop. 25,000—50,000) 36 deaths per 1,000 live births.

The following table shows the comparative mortality rate during the past 8 years :—

	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Number of deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years ...	1	1	1	2	5	2	0	1
Infantile deaths under 1 year ..	29	30	23	42	24	27	30	29
Infantile Mortality ...	65.31	74.4	55.4	82.19	44.52	48.82	48.9	46.8

The following table gives details of the cause of death in the different age groups under 1 year:—

INFANTILE MORTALITY—1947.

Causes of Death.		Under 1 wk.	1-2 weeks	2-3 weeks	3-4 weeks	Total under 1 month	1-3 months	3-6 months	6-9 months	9-12 months	Total under 1 year
Prematurity ...	..	10	0	0	0	10	0	0	0	0	10
Pneumonia ...	...	1	0	0	0	1	1	3	1	0	6
Asphyxia ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Encephalitis ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Bronchitis ...	...	0	0	0	1	1	0	2	1	0	4
Intussusception ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
C.S. Meningitis ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Congen. Abnormality ...	...	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	2
Gastro-enteritis ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
Atalectasis ...	...	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Tuberculosis (Miliary) ...	...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total ...	...	12	1	0	1	14	2	9	4	0	29

SECTION B.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

Laboratory Facilities.—Laboratory facilities are available at the Laboratory belonging to the Northumberland County Council. The extent to which facilities have been utilized is shown below:—

Specimen sent by	Specimen	Pos.	Neg.
C.C.T.O.	Sputa for tubercle.	37	249
General Practitioners	do.	5	99
M.O.H.	Swabs for Diphtheria	0	16
General Practitioners	do.	11	67
General Practitioners	Swabs for Heam. Strept.	8	19
General Practitioners	Fæces for Organisms.	1	1
General Practitioners	Swabs for Vincents Angina	1	3

AMBULANCE FACILITIES
NURSING IN THE HOME. (District Nurses & Midwives.)
TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS.
HOSPITALS.

} NO
CHANGE.

Maternity and Child Welfare.—This service is now the responsibility of the Northumberland County Council and clinics are held at the C.W.C., South View, as follows:—

Ante-Natal Clinics.—Every Wednesday—morning and afternoon. Every Friday except the last in the month—held morning and afternoon on the 1st and 3rd Friday of each month, and on the 4th Friday when there are five Fridays in the month. Held in the morning only on the 2nd Friday. A doctor is always in attendance.

Post-Natal Clinics.—Held fortnightly—on Tuesday afternoons.

Child Welfare Clinics.—Every Monday afternoon and every Tuesday and Thursday morning.

Sun-Ray Clinics.—Every Monday morning and Thursday afternoon.

Toddlers Clinics.—Fortnightly—on Tuesday afternoons.

Diphtheria Immunisation Clinics.—On the 2nd Friday afternoon of every month.

Pre-School Immunisation Clinics.—On last Friday morning of the month.

Ophthalmic Clinic—On Saturday mornings at two monthly intervals.

SECTION C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water—The whole of the district is supplied with water by the Tynemouth Corporation. This has been chlorinated since 1942, and samples taken periodically from varying points in the district show it to be of the highest quality of drinking water. Appended are the results of the examinations carried out:—

Source.				Date	Coli Aerogenes Test Organisms per 100 ml.
Town Supply	...	...	...	16-4-47	Nil
do	...	...	...	16-4-47	Nil
do	...	...	...	16-4-47	Nil
do	(standpipe)	...	...	16-4-47	Nil
do	...	...	...	20-5-47	Nil
do	...	...	...	20-5-47	Nil
do	(standpipe)	...	...	3-7-47	Nil
do	...	...	...	18-9-47	Nil

All houses in the district are supplied with water from public mains. There are altogether 7,575 houses with a population of 28,590, and there are 17 houses with a population of 85 supplied by 5 standpipes. This represents only 0.21% of the total houses and it is estimated that 85.98% have water laid on; 2.93% are supplied by taps in the back-yard and 10.88% by taps in the wash-house.

Drainage and Sewerage.—There have been no extensions in this during the year. Discussions with owners and builders take place where alterations to existing drainage systems are necessary and maximum benefit has been achieved thereby.

Rivers and Streams.—No action was taken under this heading.

Closet Accommodation.—There have been no conversions carried out during the period under review.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—Consequent on the necessity of obtaining licences to execute works under the Defence (General) Regulations where such cost exceeded £10, the work was divided between the Surveyor's Department and this Department. Licences arising out of the submission of a plan were issued by the Surveyor and all other applications were dealt with by your Sanitary Inspector. Every endeavour was made to ensure that essential works only were carried out so that the leeway in essential repairs was in some measure made up. Notwithstanding attempts to increase this repair work the maximum benefit was never achieved, although good work was done. Considerable additional work was entailed in the administration, when it is realised that all premises in respect of which application for a building licence was made were visited and the relative urgency or necessity for work assessed. Every endeavour was made and co-operation existed with the builders to that end to see that work only of an essential type was carried out. The feeling always existed, however, although proof was not forthcoming, that some Journeymen Craftsmen took full advantage of jobbing work in their spare time for the purely profit motive, and while in such cases householders may have paid more for work to be carried out than had registered Builders been engaged, at least they were saved the necessity of applying for a building licence.

During the year 764 building licences were issued covering a total cost of £21,406 11s. 6d.

In addition to the figures given in the accompanying table, informal action was responsible for a not inconsiderable amount of work of repair.

The following table summarises the notices served:—

Nuisances dealt with and work required to be done.	Verbal or Written Notice.	Complied with.
To clear Choked Drain or Water Closet ...	185	185
To provide Ashbins ...	14	10
To repair Eaves, Gutters and Downspouts ...	32	26
To repair Sinks or Wastepipes ...	7	4
Defective or Leaky Roofs, Damp Walls etc. ...	56	42
Defective Fireplaces ...	30	25
Defective Outbuildings ...	23	15
Defective Water Closets ...	23	16
Defective Sashcords ...	16	8
Defective Wallplaster ...	30	24
Offensive Accumulations ...	2	2
Defective Foodstores ...	10	10
Defective Airgrates ...	1	1
Defective Ceilings ...	15	15

Swimming Baths and Pools.—

- (1) Institute Baths (baths, showers and pool) open to the public—members and non-members.
- (2) Pit head baths (showers) Woodhorn Colliery.

The water of the swimming pool undergoes clarification and chlorination, while the water supply to the pit head baths is a chlorinated one.

Pit head baths are in the course of erection at New Moor, and baths at Ashington Colliery are contemplated, both of which, when completed, will be of much benefit and considerably ease the work of the housewife.

Appended are the results of examinations carried out on Swimming Bath Water:—

Source,	Date	Coli Aerogenes Test Organisms per 100 ml.
Institute Swimming Baths ...	3-7-47	Nil
do. ...	14-8-47	Nil

Schools.—All as before, as regards Sanitary arrangements.

Cinemas and Public Buildings.—The Ventilation, Sanitary Accommodation, and Cleanliness of all places of Public Entertainment remained satisfactory during the year and no complaint was received respecting any building.

Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Infestation Order, S.R. & O. 1943, No. 680.—

The delegation of powers from the County Council under the above Act, was again renewed during the year.

A considerable volume of work in this connection was undertaken during the year. All the allotments, the Council's Tip and the Screening Chamber, in particular, were given close attention and treatment. The allotments, notably those on which pigs and poultry are kept, again proved to be sources meriting regular attention. The habit of having a refuse dump at the bottom of the garden is one to be discouraged since, in too many cases, it afforded harbourage for vermin. Ramshackle

erections housing pigs and poultry, while not only allowing the free access of rats, are not conducive to breeding either good animals or birds, and recommendation has been made to the Local Authority, and approved by them, that buildings of an approved type only shall be used for pigs and poultry.

The heavy snow fall at the beginning of the year interfered to some extent with deratisation, but these arrears were overtaken during the course of the year.

Active steps continue to be taken throughout the district.

Camping Sites.—There are no camping sites within the area.

Atmospheric Pollution.—Several cases were instituted against householders during the year where they had permitted the chimney of their dwelling house to be on fire. In one case it was found necessary to call in the services of the fire brigade. In two successive cases fines of five shillings and two shillings and sixpence, respectively, were imposed, but it is not quite clear how a variation of intensity of atmospheric pollution can be measured in this way. Complaints by householders against a factory or works chimney emitting smoke were received, but the domestic chimney is a greater source of nuisance in this district than any other. It is to be hoped that the time is not far distant when there will be a greater appreciation by the public of the value of clean air and when chimney firing, too often deliberate rather than accidental, will cease.

Colliery Spoilbanks.—Constant surveillance over these, at the moment necessary but unsightly, heaps was maintained during the period under review, with close liason between H.M. Alkali Inspector and your Sanitary Inspector. The general performance was on the whole good but occasionally, due to climatic conditions principally, fuming was at times heavier than is desirable. Some of the spoil is now diverted to Lynemouth where it is tipped at high water level. In spite of this there is still a large output for which tipping ground is to be made available. The ariel ropeway tip is to be extended and heightened so that for some little while, at least, no other method of disposal appears to be possible. The hope is again expressed that it may be found possible for the National Coal Board to direct research into possible uses of this spoil which must have more value other than purely spoilbank waste.

Mosquitoes.—Work on this problem has been steady and has followed on that of previous years. An extension of the nuisance was noted during the year when specimens of all three types were found in different parts of the district, the *Aedes* in the Blueholes, *Culicines* and *Anophelines* in the water in the pitfalls to the North and West of the district. Old sump oil and kerosene were used to spray the water in the Blueholes with reasonably satisfactory results, since the nuisance was minimised, and discussions took place with the Area General Manager of the National Coal Board with a view to the drainage of the various pitfalls in order that the nuisance in this direction be eliminated. Proposals to this end had reached an advanced stage at the end of the year, and work on the general question was still proceeding.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.—

- (a) No. of Council Premises found to be infested by Bed Bugs—14
No. disinfested—14
- (b) No. of other Premises found to be infested by Bed Bugs—10
No. disinfested—10

For this work Zaldecide and D.D.T. were used.

Disinfestation is carried out by employees of the Local Authority. A charge is made on the Owner or the Tenant, and advice is given on the avoidance of reinfestation.

Beetles.—Infestation by Beetles is not an infrequent cause for complaint. 23 premises were dealt with for this.

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S REPORT—Summary of year ending Dec. 31st, 1947.

	No. of Inspec- tions during year.	No. of Defects or Contra- ventions of Bye- Laws.	No. out- standing from previous year.	No. re- medied after letter or interview.	No. of informal Notices served.	Defects re- medied their after.	In progress or being dealt with.
HOUSING.							
Structural Defects	817	240	152	18	217	322	47
Defective Food-store	21	10	3	—	10	13	—
Dampness	93	61	21	5	56	63	14
Overcrowding	265	—	—	—	—	—	—
WATER							
Insufficient	171	25	4	14	11	15	—
Unsatisfactory							
DRAINAGE.							
Insufficient	432	185	1	185	—	1	—
Defective							
SANITARY CONVENIENCES.							
Insufficient	109	22	4	—	23	20	7
Defective							
Shops, Food-stores, etc.	743	19	—	19	—	—	—
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	148	7	—	7	—	—	—
Slaughter Houses	745	Government Abattoir.					
Offensive Trades	165	12	—	12	—	—	—
Workshops and Workplaces	159	10	—	10	—	—	—
Keeping Animals	44	6	—	6	—	—	—
Offensive Accumulations	40	14	—	12	2	2	—
Totals	3952	611	185	288	319	436	68

SECTION D.

HOUSING.

Number new houses erected during the year :—

A.—Total	...	...	...	...	...	69
B.—As part of the Municipal Housing Scheme (Permanent)	...	...	...	...	...	69

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year.* :—

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health or Housing Acts	417
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	1543
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925)	...	...	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose	...	...	...	...	Nil
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	Nil
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	98

2. *Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.* :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers	93
-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	-----	-----	-----	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year.* :—

For the sub-sections A, B, C, D, “Nil” returns have been supplied.

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV.—Overcrowding.* :—

Here again the returns for sections (a), (b), (c) and (d) are “Nil” ones.

SECTION E.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.—47 samples of Milk were taken and submitted for examination as set out below:—

16 Pasteurised samples were submitted to the Phosphatase Test with the appended results:—

Over 29.9 Blue Units	29.9 Blue Units	29.9 Blue Units
Over 29.9 Blue Units	1.4 Blue Units	2.1 Blue Units
1.9 Blue Units	1.7 Blue Units	1.6 Blue Units
1.3 Blue Units	1.5 Blue Units	1.5 Blue Units
1.4 Blue Units	1.4 Blue Units	1.3 Blue Units
1.2 Blue Units		

4 samples it will be noted were insufficiently heat-treated. The reason for this is inexplicable, the Charts and Thermometers were checked, samples taken at various stages of the process gave satisfactory results, and the general finding from all these indicated that proper heat-treatment had taken place. Whatever the reason for the failure of the samples to the test it was removed as subsequent sampling shows.

Of 33 samples Raw, T.T. and Pasteurised Milks submitted to the Public Health Laboratory, Newburn:—

25 Satisfied the Methylene Blue Test (inc. 2 Past. Milks)

1 Decolourised under $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

1 Decolourised under $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

1 Decolourised under $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours.

1 Decolourised under 4 hours.

2 Decolourised under 2 hours.

2 Decolourised under $\frac{1}{2}$ hour.

Of the 8 samples which failed to Satisfy the Methylene Blue Test, 5 were produced within the Urban District, 1 decolourised in $4\frac{1}{2}$ hours, 1 in 4 hours, 1 in 2 hours, and 2 in $\frac{1}{2}$ an hour.

31 Samples were submitted to the Test for Tuberculosis, 24 were reported as showing Tuberculosis NOT FOUND; 3 were reported as showing Tuberculosis PRESENT, and 4 tests were not carried out. Two Cows, 1 from each of two sources giving a positive sample, were slaughtered, and found to have Generalised Tuberculosis with lesions in the Udder

Ice Cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947.—

Consequent on the introduction of these regulations all makers of Ice Cream in the Urban District were contacted and the provisions thereof discussed. In some cases the requirements of the regulations had been anticipated and equipment ordered. The local Authority gave every consideration to deposited plans and applications for building licences to enable operation of, and compliance with the regulations.

The delivery date of the appropriate equipment is the factor most likely to hinder full observance.

15 samples of Ice Cream were taken and submitted to the prescribed tests. These were returned in the following grades:—

Grade 1 One
Grade 2 Two

Grade 3 Four
Grade 4 Eight

Food Preparing Premises.—

During April, to ensure that reasonable care was maintained in Canteens, in particular, inspections were carried out into the methods used in the question of utensils, crockery, cutlery, etc. A series of samples of rinse water was taken and submitted to Bacteriological examination. Armed with these results, attempt was made to improve the washing-up facilities by the immediate fitting of additional steam jets into the wash-up sinks. The attention directed to this, increased the efficiency of the methods in use, and while no premises could be called ideal, progress was made. Further notice was directed to this problem by the National Conference on Food and Drink Infection held in October.

Meat and Other Foods.—The Ministry of Food Slaughtering Depot for Ashington and Newbiggin is located in the premises belonging to the Ashington Industrial Co-operative Society.

The numbers of animals slaughtered for the year under review are as follows:—

Cattle (excluding Cows) 1653; Cows 218; Calves 847; Sheep and Lambs 6727; Swine 307.

The amount of Meat condemned, surrendered and destroyed is set out in the accompanying table with the reason for such action. This meat is sent away for processing for the extraction of fats, etc.

MEAT, ORGANS, ETC., CONDEMNED, SURRENDERED AND DESTROYED.

For Tuberculosis,

BOVINE—

Lungs	...	...	343
Heads and Tongues	...	...	62
Livers	...	...	43
Mesenteries	...	...	12
Back Skirts	...	...	11
Hearts	...	...	5
Spleens	...	...	5
Tripes	...	...	3
Guts	...	...	4
Tails	...	...	1
Carcases (incl. 5 Casualties, 3 Rejects and 2 T.B. Tests)	...	...	21 (Total weight 747 stones)

SWINE—

Heads 2

CALVES—

Carcases 1 (Weight 121 lbs.)

For Other Defined Diseases.

BOVINE

Lungs	...	...	...	Parasites 26; Pneumonia 5; Actinomycosis 3; Pleurisy 2; Abscesses 1; Melanosis 1.
Livers	...	...	...	Cirrhosis (whole) 293, (part) 644; Echinococcus Cysts 79; Cavernous Angioma 40; Abscesses 26; Fatty Degeneration 2; Actinomycosis 1.
Heads and Tongues	...	...	...	Actinomycosis 42; Glossitis 1.
Udders	...	...	...	Mastitis 97.
Tripes	...	...	...	Inflammation 6; Abscesses 2.
Gut	...	...	...	Inflammation 4; Johnes Disease 3.
Kidneys	...	...	...	Abscesses 5; Nephritis 2.
Spleens	...	...	...	Inflammation 3; Infarcts 1.
Back Skirts	...	...	...	Abscesses 3.
Hearts	...	...	...	Pericarditis 1; Endocarditis 1.
Mesenteries	...	...	...	Parasites 1.
Beef	...	...	...	Local adhesions 25 lbs.; Fat Necrosis 5 lbs.; Abscesses 120 lbs.; Bruising 33½ stones
Carcases (including 28 Casualties and 4 Rejects.	...	...	...	Septicaemia 14; Septic Mastitis 6; Pyrexia and Emaciation 3; Dropsy and Emaciation 2; Parturient Apoplexy 1; Oedema and Ill-setting 1; Lymphatic Leukaemia 1; Johnes Disease and Emaciation 1; Sceptic Metritis 1; Acute Pyrexia 4; Septic Pericarditis 1. (Total weight 1185½ stones.)
Calves	...	...	...	Septicaemia 3; Immaturity 3; Pyrexia 3; Moribund 1; Pyrexia 1. (Total weight 31¾ stones.)

SHEEP.

Livers	...	...	...	Cirrhosis 1; Parasites 1.
Heads	...	...	...	Parasites 2; Bruising 2; Inflammation 1.
Plucks	...	...	...	Pneumonia 47; Parasites 10; Abscesses 1; Inflammation 1.
Tripes	...	...	...	Inflammation 2.
Gut	...	...	...	Inflammation 2.
Mutton	...	...	...	Bruising 71 lbs.; Abscesses 56 lbs.; Rheumatoid Arthritis 11 lbs.; Sarcoma 2 lbs.
Carcases (of which 32 were Casualties.)	...	...	...	Septicaemia 16; Dropsy and Emaciation 10; Pyrexia 10; Moribund 6; Emaciation 6; Septic Pneumonia 3; Moribund and Injuries 3; Pyrexia and Ill-setting 2; Gangrenous Mastitis 2; Pneumonia and Emaciation 1; Pneumonia and Oedema 1; Oedema 1; Ill-setting 1. Total Weight 205 stones.

SWINE.—

Plucks	...	...	...	Pneumonia 3; Pericarditis and adhesions 1.
Bellies	...	...	...	Mastitis 3.
Kidneys	...	...	...	Retention Cysts 3.
Peritoneal fat	...	...	...	Blood splashing 3 lbs.
Pork	...	...	...	Bruising 50 lbs.
Carcases (of which 3 were Casualties.)	...	...	...	Pyrexia and Oedema 1; Rheumatism and Emaciation 1; Pyaemia 1; Septicaemia 1. Total weight 33 stones.

Other Foods.—The following foods were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed:—

Corned Beef	...	...	1988 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.	Soups	...	...	...	36	tins.
Tinned Meats	...	...	123 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Milk	...	...	...	687	tins.
do. do.	...	...	175 tins.	Tomatoes	...	...	...	101	tins.
Fish	...	...	57 tins.	Butter	...	...	...	5 $\frac{3}{4}$	lbs.
do.	...	...	2 boxes.	Cooking Fat	...	...	...	14	lbs.
Vegetables	...	...	242 lbs.	Barley Flakes	...	...	...	36	lbs.
do.	...	...	392 tins.	Cheese	...	...	...	6	lbs.
Syrup	...	...	4 tins.	Cake	...	...	...	4	lbs.
Bacon	...	...	3 tins.	Bread	...	...	...	28	lbs.
do.	...	...	12 lbs.	Flour	...	...	...	3	lbs.
Fruit	...	...	196 lbs.	Miscellaneous Foodstuffs	...	...	...	9	tins.
do. and Fruit Juice	...	...	43 tins.	do.	do.	...	...	2	jars.
do.	...	...	21 boxes and 9 part boxes.						

The following foods, damaged by fire, were found to be unfit and were condemned and destroyed.

Sugar	...	...	46 lbs.	Tongue	...	...	...	1	lb.
Butter	...	...	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Biscuits	...	...	...	1 $\frac{1}{2}$	lbs.
Cheese	...	...	7 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.	Semolina	...	...	...	1	lb.
Bacon	...	...	4 lbs.	Macaroni	...	...	...	2	pkts.
Margarine	...	...	$\frac{1}{2}$ lb.	Cornflakes	...	...	...	2	pkts.
Lard	...	...	3 lbs.						

CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED, 1947.

		Cattle exclu. Cows.	Cows.	Calves	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number Killed	...	1653	218	847	6727	307
Number Inspected	...					
All Diseases except Tuberculosis—						
Whole Carcases Condemned	...	12	23	11	66	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	281	160	—	66	10
Percentage of Number affected with disease other than T.B.	...	17.72	83.9	1.29	1.81	4.56
Tuberculosis only—						
Whole Carcases Condemned	...	5	16	1	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	225	121	—	—	2
Percentage of Number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	15.12	62.84	.12		.65

SECTION F.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

Hospital accommodation for cases of infectious diseases was provided throughout the year at the Ashington Unit of the South East Northumberland Joint Hospital Board, of which the Urban District Council is a constituent authority.

TABLE SHOWING ANALYSIS OF NOTIFIED
CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES UNDER AGE GROUPS.

Disease.	Under 1 year	1—	2—	3—	4—	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	Over 65	Total Cases Notified	Admitted to Hospital	Deaths
Diphtheria ...	—	—	1	—	2	2	1	2	—	—	1	—	9	7	—
Scarlet Fever ...	—	—	2	1	—	11	7	2	1	—	—	—	24	3	—
Pneumonia ...	[2*]	1	1	—	—	—	3	1	3	1	8	3	23	[+]	13
Cerebro-spinal Menengitis ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	1	1
Ac. Anterior Poliomyelitis ...	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	2	1	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2	—	—
Malaria (contracted abroad) ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—	—
Whooping Cough ...	3	1	1	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—
Measles ...	14	52	57	56	34	86	4	1	1	—	—	—	305	—	—

* Age unknown.

† Unknown.

Diphtheria.—The number of cases of this disease dropped sharply in 1947. Only 9 cases were notified as compared with 76 in the previous year and for the first time for seven years no death from Diphtheria was recorded. Of these 9 cases, 8 occurred during the first six months and the ninth one at the end of December. Five of the cases were known to have been immunised.

The Appended table shows the notifications and deaths in the past 10 years:—

Year.	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947
Cases ...	175	179	8	5	12	18	34	197	76	9
Deaths ...	5	4	—	1	2	2	2	4	3	—

It is, as yet, too early to say whether this fall in incidence and mortality is due to the fact that a high proportion of the child population has been immunised or is merely a natural sequence following the years of high incidence.

Scarlet Fever.—The number of notifications rose to 24, double the number in 1946, but the disease continued to be of a mild character and there were no deaths.

Measles.—This disease again assumed epidemic proportions in 1947 and 305 cases were notified but no deaths were recorded.

Acute Anterior Poliomyelitis.—Although this disease was so prevalent throughout the country in the summer of 1947, Ashington was fortunate in remaining comparatively unaffected by its incidence. Only two cases were notified and no deaths were recorded.

Enteric Fevers.—No cases occurred during the year.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—In November another round of visits to all the schools in the district was begun, continued during December and was not finally completed until March, 1948.

Altogether during 1947, there were treated for the first time, at the schools, at the Welfare Centre and by private doctors, 398 pre-school children and 143 school children. In addition 581 children received re-inforcing injections.

It was estimated at 31/12/47, that a total of 1,302 pre-school children and 3,870 school children had completed a course of treatment at some time. Calculated on these figures, the immunisation state of the child population is as follows:—

Pre-school children immunised	...	...	53.8%
School children immunised	...	...	94.6%
Proportion of child population immunised	...	...	79.4%

Scabies.—The incidence of this disease continued to decline in 1947. In all, 58 persons were treated for Scabies and none for Scabies and Lice. The corresponding figures for 1946 were 62 and 14.

The cleansing station at Ashington continued to function throughout the year.

The following table shows the number of persons from Ashington who were treated, according to their ages and conditions for which they suffered:—

	Scabies Only.		Scabies Not Found	
	M	F	M	F
Over 16 years	9	15	0	0
5—16 years	13	17	0	0
Under 5 years	2	2	1	0
	<u>24</u>	<u>34</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>

Also appended is a table showing the total numbers treated from all the district in the No. 2 Medical Area:—

	Scabies Only.		Scabies & Lice.		Scabies Not Found.		Lice Only.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Over 16 years	11	19	0	1	0	0	0	1
5—16 years	16	20	3	3	0	0	0	0
Under 5 years	4	4	0	1	1	1	0	1
	<u>31</u>	<u>43</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>2</u>

It should be pointed out, again, that the above figures represent the number of persons treated and cannot be taken as indicative of the actual incidence of Scabies in Ashington and the adjoining areas.

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1947.

Years	New Cases				Deaths.			
	Resp.		Non-Resp.		Resp.		Non-Resp.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0— 1	1	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
1— 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—15	2	2	—	—	—	1	—	—
15—25	4	3	1	—	2	2	1	—
25—35	8	4	—	—	1	2	—	—
35—45	3	3	—	—	2	1	—	—
45—55	2	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
55—65	4	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
65 & Over	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	24	13	1	1	8	7	2	—

CANCER MORTALITY.

	MALES.								FEMALES.							
	25-	30-	35-	40-	45-	65-	Total		25-	30-	35-	40-	45-	65-	Total	
Tonsil ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Larynx ...	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Lung ...	0	0	1	0	4	1	6		0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Breast ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	3	1	4	
Oesophagus ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Stomach ...	0	0	0	0	4	5	9		0	0	0	0	4	8	12	
Liver ...	0	0	0	0	0	1	1		0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Caecum ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Colon ...	0	0	0	0	2	0	2		0	0	1	0	1	2	4	
Rectum ...	0	0	0	0	2	4	6		1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Prostate ...	0	0	0	0	0	2	2		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
Uterus ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Cervix ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	1	2	1	4	
Ovary ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	1	0	1	0	2	
Spine ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Thigh (S) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Arm (S) ...	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		0	0	0	0	1	0	1	
Abdomen (S)	0	0	0	0	1	0	1		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	
	0	0	1	0	14	13	28		1	0	3	1	16	15	36	

S.D. 55.

Birth-rates, Civilian Death-rates, Analysis of Mortality, Maternal Mortality and Case-rates for certain Infectious Diseases in the Year 1947.

Provisional figures based on Weekly and Quarterly Returns.

				England and Wales	126 C.B's. and Great Towns including London	148 Smaller Towns Resident Pop. 25,000—50,000 at 1931 Census	London Admin. County		
				Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population,					
BIRTHS—									
Live Births	...	...	...	20.5 †	23.3	22.2	22.7
Still Births...	...	...	...	0.50†	0.62	0.54	0.49
DEATHS—									
All Causes ...	...	...	...	12.0 †	13.0	11.9	12.8
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	0.02	0.03	0.02	0.02
Diphtheria...	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Influenza ...	...	...	...	0.09	0.09	0.08	0.08
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.00	*
Measles ...	...	...	...	0.01	0.02	0.02	0.01
NOTIFICATIONS—									
Typhoid Fever	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.00	0.01
Paratyphoid Fever	...	...	...	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cerebro-spinal Fever	...	...	...	0.05	0.06	0.05	0.05
Scarlet Fever	...	...	...	1.37	1.54	1.37	1.31
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	2.22	2.41	2.02	2.80
Diphtheria...	...	...	...	0.13	0.15	0.14	0.14
Erysipelas ...	...	...	...	0.19	0.21	0.18	0.22
Smallpox ...	...	...	...	0.00	0.00	0.01	0.00
Measles ...	...	...	...	9.41	9.13	9.58	5.29
Pneumonia...	...	...	...	0.79	0.89	0.68	0.64
				Rates per 1,000 Live Births.					
DEATHS—									
All causes under 1 year of age	...	...	...	41 †	47	36	37
Enteritis and Diarrhoea under 2 years of age	...	...	...	5.8	8.0	3.7	4.8
				Rate per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births.					
NOTIFICATIONS—									
Puerperal Fever	...	...	...	7.16	8.99	6.27	1.21 6.94§
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	...			
MATERNAL MORTALITY IN ENGLAND AND WALES.									
				Rates per 1,000 Total (Live and Still) Births		Rates per million women aged 15-44			
140	Abortion with Sepsis	...	...	0.10		9	
141	Abortion without Sepsis	...	...	0.06		5	
147	Puerperal Infections	...	...	0.16			
142-146	} Other Maternal Causes	...	...	0.85			
148-150									

* Signifies that there were no deaths.

† Rates per 1,000 total population.

‡ Per 1,000 related births.

§ Including Puerperal Fever.

